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An annotated list of Decapoda material collected by L. BIRÓ in New Guinea

By

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ABSTRACT. Data of seven Decapoda species described by NOBILI are given. Lectotypes of Cyclograpsus integer H. Milne Edwards unidens (Nobili, 1905), Holthuisiana (Holthuisiana) biroi (Nobili, 1905) and Tritodynamia horvathi Nobili, 1905 have been designated. A list of extant material from New Guinea, collected by BIRÓ and identified by NOBILI, is given.

Lajos BIRÓ (1856-1931) (Fig. 1), one of the most renowned New Guinea explorers, was born in Transylvania. He studied natural history, mainly zoology, in Budapest. BIRÓ was a very talented collector, he made collecting trips all over Hungary, at that time he was said to know the country the best among the zoologists. In 1895 S. FENICHEL, Hungarian naturalist, suddenly died in New Guinea, whose example initiated BIRÓ to continue his work. He sold his private library and collection, signed a contract with the Hungarian National Museum. On 1st January, 1896 he arrived in New Guinea and returned in December 1901. His collectings in that region were very successful, he sent about 200 000 animals, mostly insects, and several thousand ethnographical objects to the National Museum.

After his return BIRÓ worked with the National Museum as "Custos honoris causa", he sorted out his material and prepared it for study. Besides this he made some collecting trips to Tunisia, Bulgaria and Turkey, but unfortunately he did not succeed in organizing yet another expedition to the Tropics. As a specialist he worked on Microhymenoptera and set up a valuable collection of this group.

The wealth of BIRÓ's collections in New Guinea furnished a good basis for studying the fauna of that region. Many specialists worked on his material with more than 2 000 new species having been described (SZÉKESSY, 1956).

BIRÓ's Decapoda material was identified by NOBILI (1905b). NOBILI reported 33 taxa and described four new species and two new varieties. In this paper we intend to give an annotated list of the extant material, with particular reference to the type specimens. Three of NOBILI's new taxa have original specimens in the collection, in addition to them Tritodynamia horvathi described by NOBILI (1905a) is also treated in this paper. We hope that the information published in this paper will help resolving some problems in the taxonomy of these taxa.

From the same material recently PRETZMANN (this volume) described a new species, Geosesarma ianthina sp. n.

ANNOTATED LIST OF TYPE MATERIAL

1. Caridina weberi De Man var. papuana Nobili , 1905

1905b Caridina weberi papuana n. var. - Nobili: 481, pl. XII, fig. 1

1917 Caridina weberi papuana Nobili - Roux: 591

1934 Caridina weberi papuana Nobili - Roux: 218, 221

Material: 8 poorly preserved specimens with mostly disarticulated limbs. New Guinea, Stephansort, leg. Biró; Cat. No.: Dec. 1.

Remarks: according to HOLTHUIS (pers. comm.): "the status of Caridina weberi papuana is doubtful as the whole Caridina weberi complex needs a thorough revision".

2. Macrobrachium lar (Fabricius, 1798)

1905b Leander dionyx n. sp. - Nobili: 482, pl. XII, fig. 2
1950 Macrobrachium lar (Fabricius) - Holthuis: 185

Material: holotype by monotypy, lost.

3. Phymodius perlatus Nobili, 1905

1905b Phymodius perlatus n. sp. - Nobili: 487-490, pl. XII, figs 3-3c
1968 Phymodius ? perlatus Nobili - Serene: 81

Material: holotype by monotypy, lost.

Remarks: according to HOLTHUIS (pers. comm.) and to SERENE (1968), the status of the species is doubtful. In spite of the loss of the type, the figure by NOBILI (1905b) is probably a redrawn photograph and his detailed key may serve as a basis for future re-evaluation.

4. Cyclograpsus integer H. Milne Edwards unidens (Nobili, 1905)

1905b Cyclograpsus parvulus var. unidens n. var. - Nobili: 501
1968 Cyclograpsus integer unidens (Nobili) - Serene: 109

Material: 2 males. New Guinea, Seleo, Berlinhafen, leg. Biró; lectotype Cat. No.: Dec. 2 (Figs 2-3), paralectotype Cat. No.: Dec. 3.

Remarks: These two specimens in the collection are labelled "Cyclograpsus parvulus De Man, det. Nobili". Though neither "var. parvulus" nor "typus" is mentioned on the label, we are convinced that these are NOBILI's syntype specimens. The size of the larger one corresponds to that given by NOBILI (1905b) (12 mm x 14.5 mm), therefore this specimen was designated as lectotype.

5. Neosarmatium biroi (Nobili, 1905)

1905b Sarmatium Birói n. sp. - Nobili: 498-501, textfig. 2
1917 Sarmatium Birói Nobili - Tesch: 213-214
1968 Sarmatium biroi Nobili - Serene: 108
1970 Neosarmatium n. gen. biroi (Nobili) - Serene and Soh: 398, 406

Material: Holotype by monotypy, poorly preserved female with disarticulated limbs (Figs 4-8). New Guinea, Stephansort, leg. Biró; Cat. No.: Dec. 4.

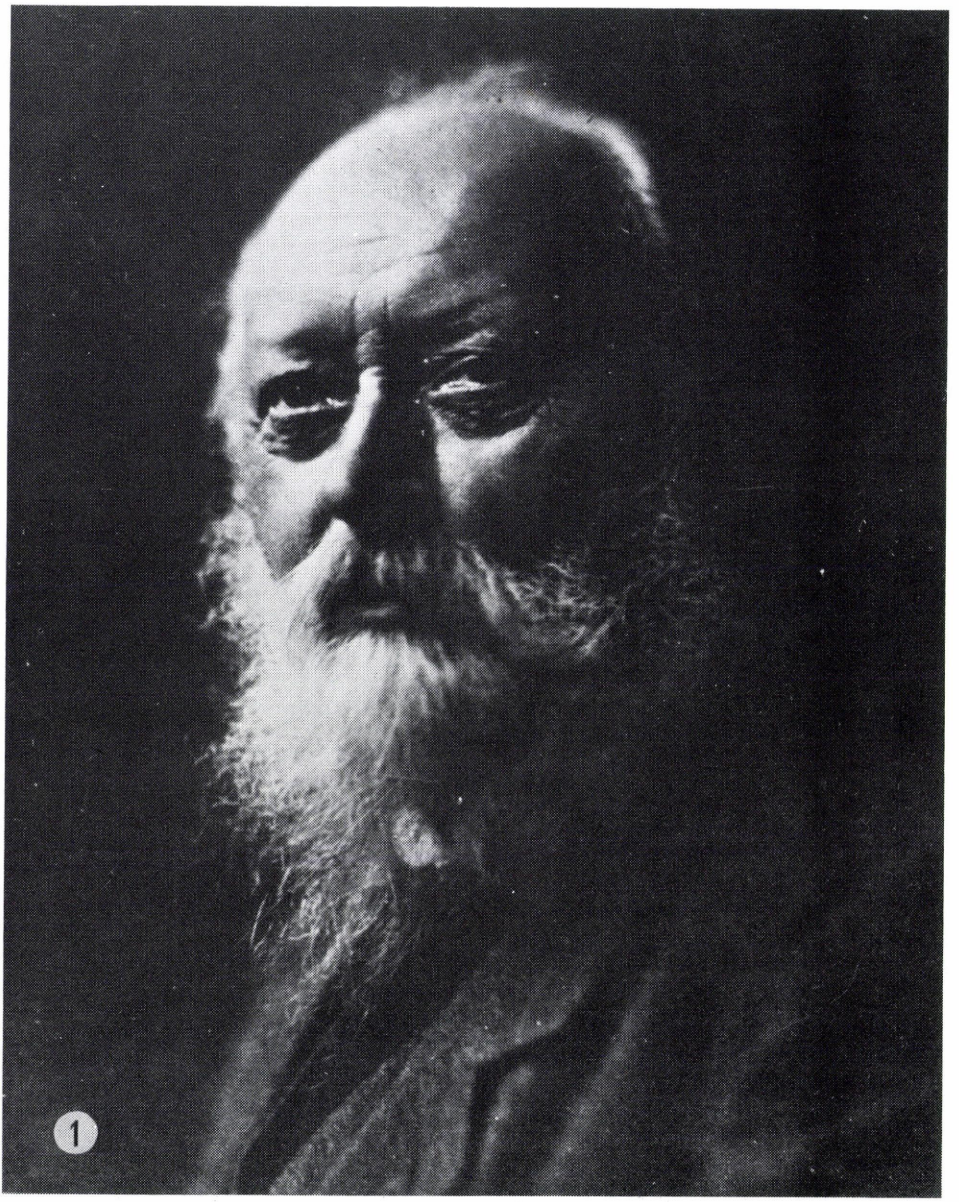
6. Holthuisiana (Holthuisiana) biroi (Nobili, 1905)

1905b Potamon (Geotelphusa) Birói n. sp. - Nobili: 491-493, pl. XII, fig. 4
1970 Holthuisiana (Holthuisiana) biroi (Nobili, 1905) - Bott: 12, 89-90, pl. 12, figs 42-44, pl. 28, fig. 53
1974 Holthuisiana (Holthuisiana) biroi (Nobili, 1905) - Bott: 24-26
1974 Holthuisiana (Holthuisiana) biroi (Nobili, 1905) - Holthuis: 30-36

Material: two specimens. New Guinea, Sattelberg, leg. Biró; (Figs 9-14), lectotype Cat. No.: Dec. 5, male; paralectotype Cat. No.: Dec. 6, juv. female, moderately well-preserved, partly disarticulated limbs.

Explanation of figures:

Fig. 1. Portrait of Lajos Biró (1856-1931)
Figs 2-3. Cyclograpsus integer unidens (Nobili, 1905), male, lectotype; 2= dorsal view, 3= ventral view
Figs 4-7. Neosarmatium biroi (Nobili, 1905), female, holotype; 4= dorsal view, 5= ventral view, 6= left chela, outer view, 7= left chela, inner view
Fig. 8. Neosarmatium biroi (Nobili, 1905), female, holotype, frontal view
Figs 9-13. Holthuisiana (Holthuisiana) biroi (Nobili, 1905), male, lectotype; 9= dorsal view, 10= frontal view, 11= left lateral margin, 12= right chela, 13= left chela
Fig. 14. Holthuisiana (Holthuisiana) biroi (Nobili, 1905), male, lectotype, 3rd maxillipeds
Figs 15-17. Tritodynamia horvathi Nobili, 1905, male, lectotype; 15=dorsal view, 16= ventral view, 17= abdomen
Fig. 18. Tritodynamia horvathi Nobili, 1905, male, paralectotype, pleopod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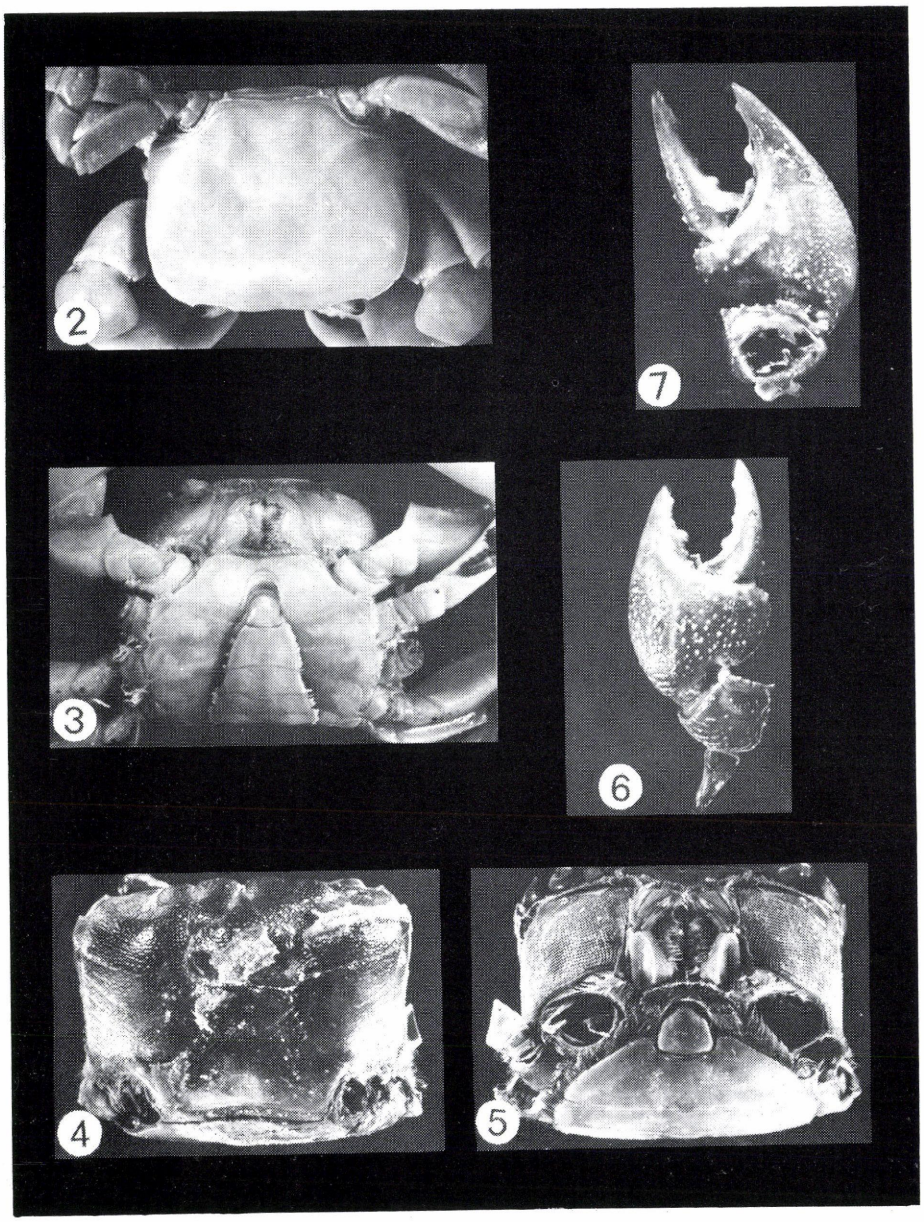
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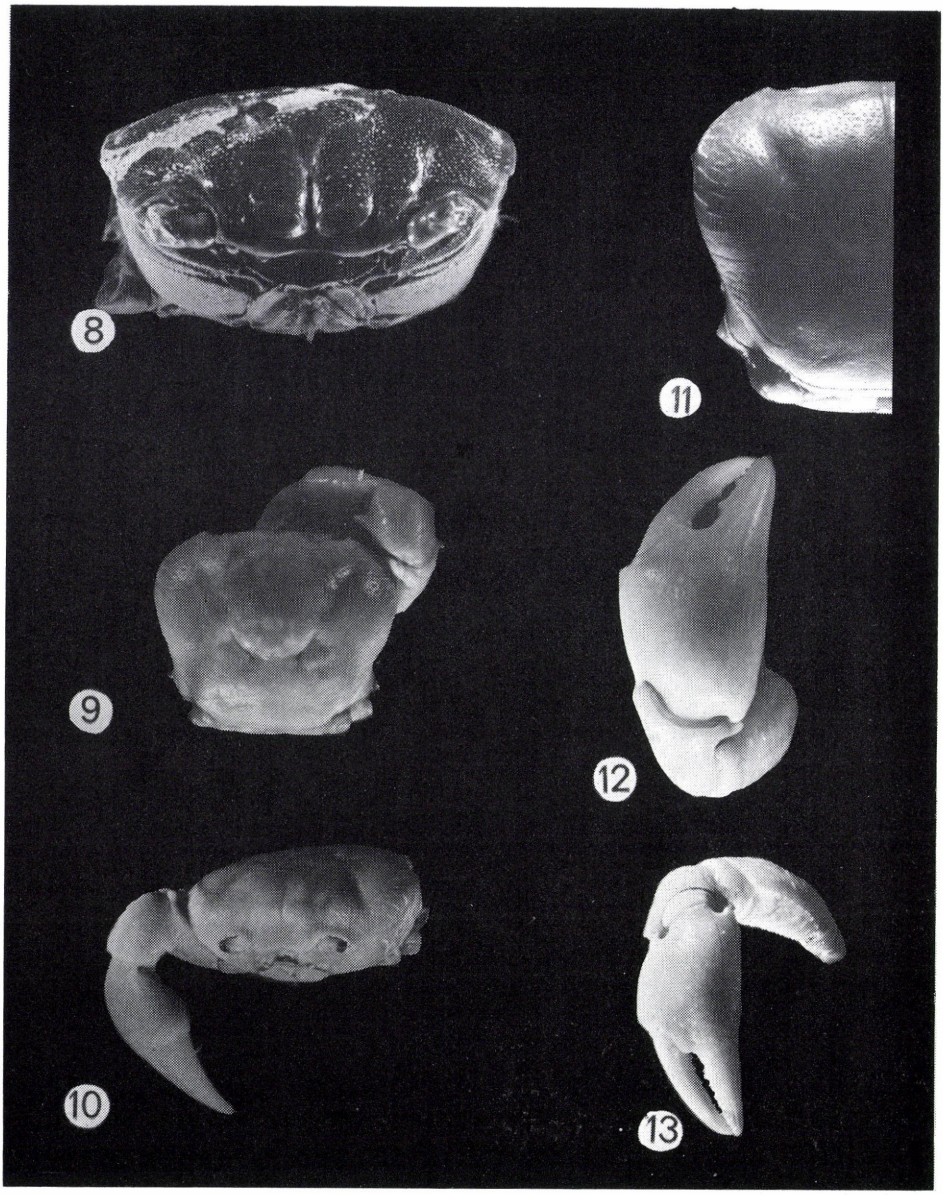
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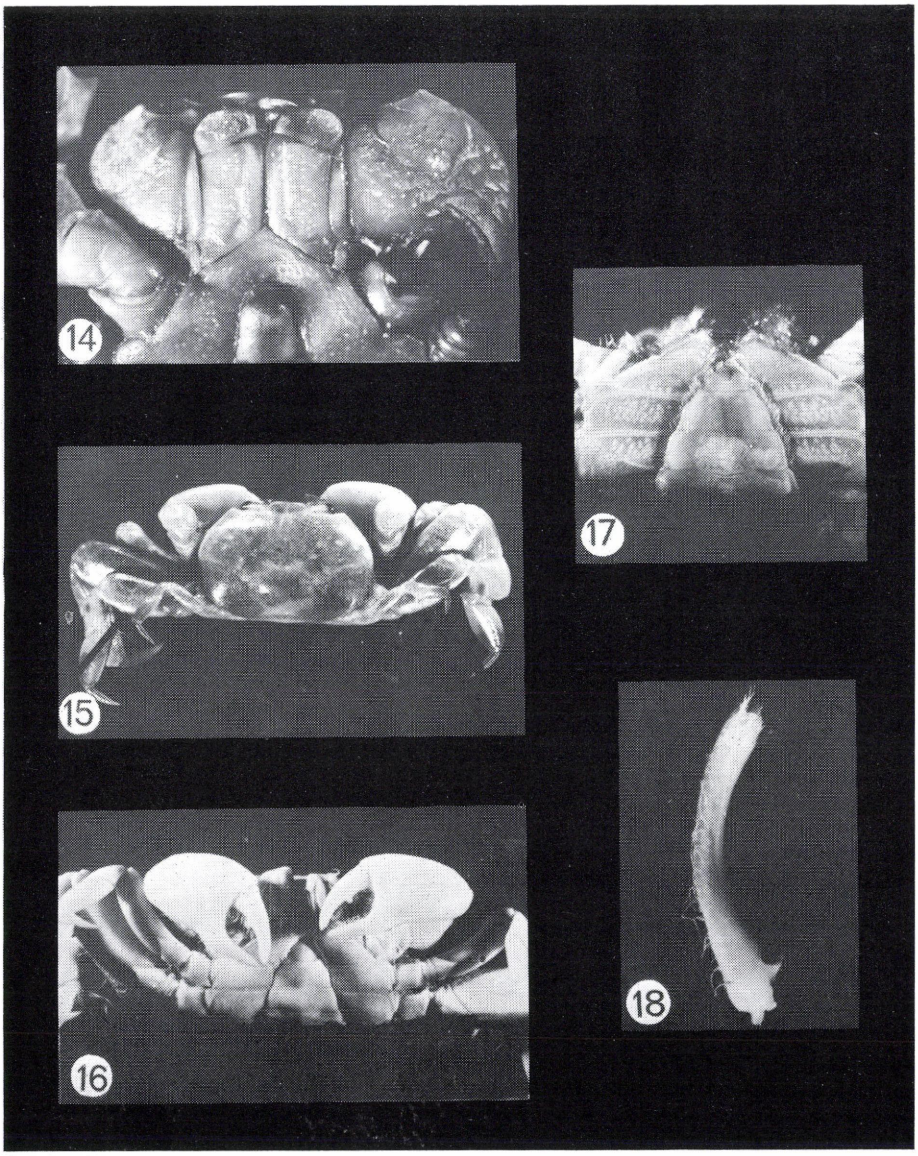
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Remarks: A detailed description of the species was given by BOTT (1970, 1974). The types were not available to him, thus BOTT (1970: 89-90) could not state the presence of an epibranchial tooth, mentioned by NOBILI (1905b: p. 492 "Il dente epibranchiale ... mill. 2 3/4 dall' apice del dente extraorbitale"). This was actually a "Zwischenzahn" (cf. Bott, 1970: 21, Abb. 1) situated at the end of the cervical groove, while genuine epibranchial teeth were absent in both type specimens. The "Zwischenzahn" is much smaller in the types than it is in NOBILI's figure.

7. Tritodynamia horvathi Nobili, 1905

1905a Tritodynamia Horváthi n. sp. - Nobili: 407-412, pl. X, fig. 1
1976 Tritodynamia horvathi Nobili, 1905 - Sakai: 590-591, pl. 204, figs 3-4, and further synonymy

Material: 13 specimens. Kobe, Japan, leg. ?; (Figs 15-17), lectotype Cat. No.: Dec. 7, male; paralectotypes Cat. No.: Dec. 8, two females, eight males, two ?sex, mostly well preserved.

LIST OF NON-TYPE MATERIAL

(species names and all data are given as written on the labels)

1. Carpilius maculatus L. - 1 sp.
   Tami, 1900, leg. Biró, det. Nobili; Cat. No.: Dec. 9
2. Coenobita clypeatus - 1 sp.
   N. Guinea, leg. Biró, det. Nobili; Cat. No.: Dec. 10
3. Eriphia laevimana Lat. - 2 spp.
   Szinganumi, N. Guinea, leg. Biró; Cat. No.: Dec. 11
4. Grapsus grapsus L. - 2 spp. in 2 vials
   Tami, Gumalat, 18.1.1899, leg. Biró, det. Nobili; Cat. No.: Dec. 12
   Tami, Gumalat, 18.1.1899, leg. Biró, det. Nobili; Cat. No.: Dec. 13
5. Liolophius planissimus Herbst - 1 sp.
   Seleo, Berlinhafen, leg. Biró; Cat. No.: Dec. 14
6. Metasesarma rousseauxi Edw. - 16 spp.
   Seleo, Berlinhafen, leg. Biró, det. Nobili; Cat. No.: Dec. 15
7. Ocypoda cordimana Desm. - 1 sp.
   N. Guinea, leg. Biró: Cat. No.: Dec. 16
8. Ocypoda ceratophthalma Pall. - 2 spp.
   N. Guinea, leg. Biró, det. Nobili; Cat. No.: Dec. 17
9. Sesarma Gardineri Borr. - 1 sp.
   Seleo, Berlinhafen, leg. Biró, det. Nobili; Cat. No.: Dec. 18
10. Sesarma gracilipes A. Edw. - 2 spp. in 2 vials
    Sattelberg, stream about 700 m a.s.l., leg. Biró, det. Monticelli; Cat. No.: Dec. 19
    N. Guinea, seaside forest, leg. Biró, det. Nobili; Cat. No.: Dec. 20.
11. Sesarma impressa Edw. - 1 sp.
    N. Guinea, leg. Biró, det. Nobili; Cat. No.: Dec. 21
12. Sesarma leptosoma Hilg. - 1 sp.
    N. Guinea, leg. Biró, det. Nobili; Cat. No.: Dec. 22
13. Sesarma weberi De Man - 2 spp.
    Stephansort, leg. Biró, det. Nobili; Cat. No.: Dec. 23
14. Tiarinia angusta Dana - 1 sp.
    Seleo, Berlinhafen, leg. Biró, det. Nobili; Cat. No.: Dec. 24
15. Varuna litterata Zab. - 7 spp.
    N. Guinea, leg. Biró, det. Nobili; Cat. No.: Dec. 25

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